

APPROVED: Meeting No. 33-97

ATTEST: *Paula Jewell*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL
ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND
Meeting No. 19-97

April 15, 1997

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland convened in Worksession in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue, Rockville, Maryland, on April 15, 1997, at 7:28 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor Rose G. Krasnow

Councilmember Robert E. Dorsey

Councilmember James T. Marrinan

Councilmember Glennon J. Harrison

Councilmember Robert J. Wright

In attendance: City Manager Rick Kuckkahn, City Clerk Paula Jewell and Deputy City Manager Julia Novak. Also present were Assistants to the City Manager Michelle Martin and Thomas E. Thomas, and Public Information Officer Rebecca Feaster.

Re: Worksession with Senior
Citizens Commission (SCC) and
Rockville Seniors, Inc. (RSI)

The Mayor and Council met with RSI Chairperson Ed Branges and SCC Chairperson Virginia Onley. RSI members who were present included Gloria Burns, Lois Darling, Edith Gregg, Louise Gregory, Jeannette Jennings and Nancy Veit. Senior Citizen Commission members who were present included Estelle Berberian, Stuart Crump, Joseph Doherty, Winston Lark, Eileen Rabson, Murray Stein and Walt Davis. The

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following Recreation and Parks Department staff members were also present: Phil Bryan, Karen Lumpkin, Judy Beck, Joyce Staub and Lorraine Schack. Mr. Branges briefed the Mayor and Council on the history of municipality-funded senior centers. He said that the first municipal supported center was established 25 years ago in New York, and his mother was one of the first members. In 1982, the City of Rockville established its own senior center. Mr. Branges reported that Rockville's Senior Center membership was on the increase after temporarily dropping during renovations. The Potomac Nursery School will vacate the building next year, and the space freed up will be put to day and evening use. Mr. Branges said that new challenges faced RSI, and he outlined the following issues which would be a factor:

1. Gude Drive access - RSI wants to follow through on plans to create a new entrance from Gude Drive which will provide additional access to the facility. Mr. Kuckkahn said that staff was sensitive to this issue and one way to address it would be through the Capital Improvements Process.
2. Parking at the facility - RSI wants to convert green area for additional parking spaces, develop better signage for the rear parking lot; create additional parking in the rear of the building, and install better lighting. Mayor Krasnow suggested that the area occupied by the playground could be used for additional parking since the nursery school was leaving the facility. Mr. Kuckkahn said that staff will consider the use of a consultant to look into a long-range parking plan. The Mayor and Council emphasized

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that the lighting and signage issues needed to be addressed immediately.

3. Funding for part-time custodian - Due to the increased use of the building (which does increase revenues), additional custodial help is needed for setting up and maintaining the Center's rooms. Mr. Kuckkahn said that staff will consider a contract custodial service. There was also a possibility that such a service could be routed between the various City facilities. Councilmember Dorsey said that any consultant hired to study the parking issue should be required to seek input from the seniors in order to ensure that their needs will be met.

Mr. Branges reported that RSI received an award from the Maryland Recreation and Parks Association. Ms. Gregory expressed appreciation for Karen Lumpkin and her husband's assistance in obtaining the award.

Ms. Onley reported that the Senior Citizens Commission and RSI formed a committee which was actively seeking donations of computer equipment from corporate sources. Hewlett Packard/Bell has been very responsive to the Committee's requests. The Committee held many meetings which were well represented by senior members, City staff, and, in particular, Councilmember Dorsey, who served as a consultant to the Committee. Classroom No. 13 at the Senior Center was selected as the site for the computer lab. The Committee also toured local computer lab facilities to get some ideas on how to set up the Senior Center's lab.

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Ms. Onley reported on other Commission activities. She said that SCC plans to conduct a Senior Needs Assessment Survey, as the last one was done in 1987. Ms. Onley noted that Senior Commission members were active in other organizations and she announced that Mr. Crump was appointed to the Montgomery County Commission on the Aging. Ms. Berberian reported that the seniors were developing ideas for a "welcome wall" to be painted on the outside of the Senior Center.

The Worksession with Rockville Seniors, Inc. and the Senior Citizens Commission adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Re: Worksession with Cultural Arts
Commission (CAC)

The Mayor and Council met with Cultural Arts Chairperson Catherine Irwin and members Carole Butler, Bonnie Fatigati, Kenneth Lechter, Eileen Mader, John Moser, George Northway, and Pradeep Ganguly. Rockville's Arts Program Specialist, Kathleen Moran, was also present. Ms. Irwin said that the Commission was pleased to have Pradeep Ganguly and Bonnie Fatigati, the two newest members on board. She also noted that Rosemary O'Donnell and David Peterson were two persons who worked closely with the CAC; although not in an appointed capacity. The following matters were then discussed:

1. "Spirit of Rockville" Sculpture - Mr. Northway said that the sculpture was up and working. A dedication ceremony was scheduled to take place during Hometown Holidays.

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2. Art in Public Places (AIPP) projects - Copies of the Art in Public Places Budget Statement were distributed showing the funding and expenditures of upcoming AIPP projects.

3. Art in Public Places Master Plan - The plan will be revised to reflect a flexible per capita and reserve portion of money for arts projects related to the Town Center development and soft projects such as sculptures. The CAC is interested in hearing what the Mayor and Council's priorities are for AIPP projects.

4. Arts Awards and Gala - Ms. Mader reported on plans for the October 3rd arts awards program and gala, and she announced that Mayor Krasnow agreed to serve as Honorary Chair for the event. Ms. Mader said that the CAC would like to have local celebrities present the awards to the high school winners. Ms. Fatigati explained that the awards will be presented in four categories: corporate and business supporters; volunteer supporters; Rockville high school students in grades 9-12 for achievements in the performing, visual and literary arts; and a life-time achievement award. The theme for the program is: **"from the heART of Rockville - celebrate the spirit."** The CAC is hoping that the arts awards and gala will become an annual event. The CAC is also developing a "Guide to the Arts" which will be distributed at the gala.

5. "Focus on the Arts" cable television show - Mr. Lechter said that the program was pulled off the air due to budget constraints. The CAC is interested in reinstating the show, and Mr. Lechter said that there was enough material to produce one

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show per month. Mayor Krasnow expressed her support for reinstating the show; however she was concerned about other groups in the city possibly wanting similar cable television access to produce shows. Mr. Kuckkahn stated that cable resources were limited because the station was supported by franchise fees. However, he said that staff will look into whether the request could be accommodated. Mr. Kuckkahn also said the he would provide the Mayor and Council with a schedule and listing of the types of programs that Cable was producing.

6. Historic designation Re: Glenview Mansion - Mr. Moser said that the CAC voted unanimously against designating the Mansion as a Historic District. He said that if the Mansion was put under the Historic District Commission's control, the City would lose all control over the Mansion's exterior. In addition, the cottage, gardens and acres of forested land would also be impacted.

7. Economic Statement for the arts - The CAC unanimously approved an Economic Statement for the Mayor and Council's consideration when developing an economic development corporation. Mr. Ganguly said that arts played a critical role in economic development by creating jobs, increasing tax revenues and tax base and helping businesses to recruit employees and residents by attracting arts lovers to the City. Mayor Krasnow noted that the Mayor and Council would be working to establish the economic development corporation and she said that they were very interested in having the corporation charged with addressing housing issues and arts in the City.

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Mayor Krasnow reported that the City was approached by sculptor Philip Ratner who wanted to establish a treasury of children's literature in sculptured form. Mr. Ratner was looking for a location in the City to store his works. The Mayor invited members of the Cultural Arts Commission to view Mr. Rattner's collection in Bethesda.

The Worksession with Cultural Arts Commission adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Re: Worksession with Recreation and
Parks Advisory Board

The Mayor and Council met with Chairperson Stephen Edwards and Board members F. Terry Baker, Charles Carrocio, Dirk Schenck, Robert Taylor and Maureen Quinn. Also present were Rec and Parks Director Burt Hail, Special Events Coordinator Chris Heckhaus and Special Operations Supervisor Melonee Noll. The following issues were discussed:

1. Storm water management and stream restoration in parks - The Board conducted a survey of the upper Watts Branch by walking the stream bed from Carnation Drive to Gude Drive and other areas. They counted trees involved in the stream water flow which were eroded at their bases. The Board distributed photographs showing trees which had fallen and those that were leaning as a result of erosion caused by the lack of storm water management. A total of 600 trees were affected; 90 of which were already down.

Mr. Schenck said that much of the damage was done prior to development of the King Farm and he stressed the need for immediate stream valley renovations and

maintenance. Mr. Schenck also said that he was surprised that the proposal for the bikeway was removed as a possibility. Mr. Kuckkahn explained that the City was aware of the degradation taking place in the stream valley; however, the City had to be sensitive to the environmental concerns. Mr. Schenck said that the Board recognized that this was a political issue for the City; however, they felt that the real issue should be what was best for the City and the citizens. Councilmember Marrinan asked whether the Board could conduct an additional survey of the lower Watts Branch Stream. Councilmember Dorsey inquired whether the survey could identify specific sites in the stream valley where heavy equipment would be needed for restoration work.

2. Oktoberfest - The Board proposed that the City discontinue the Oktoberfest celebration and add the Latino Festival as a City-sponsored activity for 1997. The Board could then make a recommendation about what type of activity to sponsor in future years, such as other ethnic festivals, an extended Independence Day celebration, or return to the Rockville Day celebrations. Ms. Heckhaus noted that the Sister City Corporation's primary concern about discontinuing Oktoberfest was the fund raising opportunity which would be lost; however, she pointed out that there were opportunities for fund raising at other City events that the Corporation could take advantage of.

Mayor Krasnow commented that Montgomery County held an annual Ethnic Heritage Festival and she would not want the City to copy this type of event.

Ms. Krasnow pointed out that during the Visioning process, some residents said they

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would like to see an ethnic festival in Rockville.

The Mayor and Council agreed that the 1997 Oktoberfest would be discontinued. They also felt that the City should not sponsor the Latino Festival as a City event. Staff was asked to think about ideas for future events and also to consider the implications of outside groups requesting use of space in downtown Rockville to hold events.

3. Glenview Mansion Historic District - The Board feels that the Mansion should not be placed in the Historic District. Mr. Kuckkahn said that staff was planning to hold a summit which would allow everyone an opportunity to address the issues and hopefully develop a solution to this long-standing problem.

4. Bikeway Study - Mr. Schenck reported that the Board endorsed the concept of a Bikeway Master Plan. The Bikeway Study Committee was looking forward to presenting the plan at a future Worksession.

5. Twinbrook Rec Center - The Board expressed their appreciation for the Mayor and Council's support in building the Center. He reported that the planning group had reached a good compromise on the size of the facility.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Mayor and Council, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 p.m. to reconvene in Worksession at 7:30 p.m., on May 5, 1997, or at the call of the Mayor.